

Applic. No. 10/700,119

Amdt. dated May 23, 2005

Reply to Office action of February 22, 2005

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gripper system, comprising:

grippers disposed in a row, said grippers defining interspaces therebetween and having sheet clamping surfaces and hold-downs for respectively holding down a free edge of a printing material sheet gripped by said grippers, said hold-downs being disposed to project into said interspaces and being mounted to adjust together with said grippers when gripping the printing material sheet, and said hold-downs having sheet supporting surfaces disposed to be offset away from said sheet clamping surfaces in a direction at right angles to said row.

Claim 2 (original): The gripper system according to claim 1, wherein said hold-downs are disposed on said grippers.

Claim 3 (original): The gripper system according to claim 1, wherein each of said hold-downs is formed in one piece together with a respective one of said grippers.

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Claim 4 (original): The gripper system according to claim 2, wherein each of said hold-downs is formed in one piece together with a respective one of said grippers.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): The gripper system according to claim 1, wherein:

said row of said grippers has a row direction;

~~said grippers have sheet clamping surfaces, and~~

said ~~hold-downs~~ have sheet supporting surfaces are offset from said sheet clamping surfaces at right angles to said row direction.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The gripper system according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein said sheet supporting surfaces and said sheet clamping surfaces are offset from one another in steps and define planes substantially parallel to one another.

Claim 8 (original): The gripper system according to claim 6, wherein said sheet supporting surfaces and said sheet clamping

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surfaces are offset from one another in steps and define planes substantially parallel to one another.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A gripper system, comprising:

grippers disposed in a row, said grippers defining interspaces therebetween and having sheet clamping surfaces and hold-downs for respectively holding down a free edge of a printing material sheet gripped by said grippers, said hold-downs projecting into said interspaces and adjusting together with said grippers when gripping the printing material sheet, and said hold-downs having sheet supporting surfaces disposed to be offset away from said sheet clamping surfaces in a direction at right angles to said row.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A machine for processing printing material sheets, comprising:

a first gripper system having:

grippers disposed in a row, said grippers defining interspaces therebetween and having hold-downs for respectively holding down a free edge of a printing material sheet gripped by said grippers, said hold-downs being disposed to project into said interspaces and being

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mounted to adjust together with said grippers when
gripping the printing material sheet; and

a second gripper system having second grippers disposed in a row, said second grippers defining second interspaces therebetween and having second hold-downs for respectively holding down a free edge of a printing material sheet gripped by said second grippers, said second hold-downs being disposed to project into said second interspaces and being mounted to adjust together with said second grippers when gripping the printing material sheet, said first and second gripper systems being disposed to transfer and accept the printing material sheets from one to the other during sheet transfers.

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (currently amended): The machine according to claim
[[11]] 10, wherein

said hold-downs have sheet supporting surfaces;

said second hold-downs have second sheet supporting surfaces;
and

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said sheet supporting surfaces face said second sheet supporting surfaces during the sheet transfers.

Claim 13 (original): The machine according to claim 10, further comprising a sheet transport drum, said first gripper system being a part of said sheet transport drum.

Claim 14 (original): The machine according to claim 13, further comprising a second sheet transport drum, said second gripper system being a part of said second sheet transport drum.

Claim 15 (original): The machine according to claim 14, wherein said machine is a sheet-fed printing press.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A machine for processing printing material sheets, comprising:

a first gripper system having:

grippers disposed in a row, said grippers defining interspaces therebetween and having sheet clamping surfaces and hold-downs for respectively holding down a free edge of a printing material sheet gripped by said grippers, said hold-downs projecting into said

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interspaces and adjusting together with said grippers
when gripping the printing material sheet, and said hold-
downs having sheet supporting surfaces disposed to be
offset away from said sheet clamping surfaces in a
direction at right angles to said row; and

a second gripper system, said first and second gripper systems
being disposed to transfer and accept the printing material
sheets from one to the other during sheet transfers.

Claim 17 (original): The machine according to claim 16,
wherein said second gripper system has second grippers
disposed in a row, said second grippers defining second
interspaces therebetween and having second hold-downs for
respectively holding down a free edge of a printing material
sheet gripped by said second grippers, said second hold-downs
being disposed to project into said second interspaces and
being mounted to adjust together with said second grippers
when gripping the printing material sheet.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The machine according to claim
17, wherein

~~said hold-downs have sheet supporting surfaces,~~

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said second hold-downs have second sheet supporting surfaces;
and

said sheet supporting surfaces face said second sheet
supporting surfaces during the sheet transfers.

Claim 19 (original): The machine according to claim 16,
further comprising a sheet transport drum, said first gripper
system being a part of said sheet transport drum.

Claim 20 (original): The machine according to claim 16,
further comprising a second sheet transport drum, said second
gripper system being a part of said second sheet transport
drum.

Claim 21 (original): The machine according to claim 16,
wherein said machine is a sheet-fed printing press.